



Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

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Executive Director, New Communities
Victorian Planning Authority, Department of Transport and Planning
Via email: merrimu@transport.vic.gov.au

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE MERRIMU PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN,
DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN AND DRAFT AMENDMENT C109 TO THE
MOORABOOL PLANNING SCHEME**

Dear ██████████

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) appreciate the opportunity to provide further feedback on the Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan (PSP). SRV previously provided comments on the draft PSP in December 2025 through the Agency Validation process (Attachment 1).

SRV is generally comfortable with the updated draft Merrimu PSP (March 2026), noting the improved clarity regarding the Open Space Performance Targets and confirmation of Moorabool Shire Council as the lead agency for the delivery of the sport and recreation facilities.

Indoor recreation facility

SRV notes and welcomes the inclusion of a local indoor recreation facility (IR-01) in the updated PSP and Development Contributions Plan.

As noted in our previous advice, there is strong anticipated demand for indoor court space in the Precinct and across Moorabool Shire. The *Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment (February 2025)* Background Report identified demand for up to 2 indoor courts within the PSP area by 2046. This aligns with broader Council evidence of an undersupply of indoor court provision by 2035.

While the local indoor recreation facility (IR-01) has been identified, SRV considers the PSP would benefit from clearer articulation of the scope/description of this and its funding and delivery pathway.

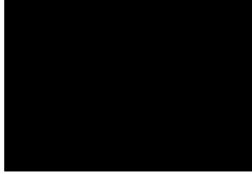
SRV encourages the PSP to consider clear delivery and funding pathways for this identified community infrastructure need, including the potential use of developer contributions mechanisms to support its delivery.

While co-location with a future school can be a delivery pathway, funding of additional indoor court facilities required to meet identified community need that are beyond standard new school requirements, is not guaranteed.

The PSP should therefore clearly identify the delivery responsibility and funding pathway for this facility to ensure the community's indoor recreation needs are met.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely



Principal Adviser, Precincts and Priority Projects
Sport and Recreation Victoria
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

9 / 4 / 2026

OFFICIAL

Attachment 1 – SRV advice to the Merrimu PSP Agency Validation process, December 2026

Merrimu PSP Agency Comment Table

Agency: Sport and Recreation Victoria, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

Contact (name, email, phone):

Page number PSP/Ordinance Footer number	Reference Section Objective/Requirement/ Guideline/Table/Plan/ Appendix/Other	Agency comment Explain why the change has been requested	Change needed Y/N	Change requested Exact wording for the change requested, italicize word changes where appropriate
Draft PSP for Agency Validation – P.15	PSP Performance Summary	It is not clear if and how the proposed PSP meets the performance targets as per the Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines, in particular Performance Targets <i>T11 (The open space network should seek to meet the following minimum targets)</i> and <i>T12 (Open space and sports reserves should be located to meet the following distribution targets)</i>. SRV notes these performance targets support the provision and access to open space and recreation infrastructure, which is vital to the success and livability of new communities.	Y	Summary of Performance targets to be updated.
Draft PSP for Agency Validation – P.41	Open Space Delivery	SRV seeks clarity on the lead agency responsible for delivery of the sports reserves / infrastructure (AOS-01, AOS-02 and AOS-03). Should Moorabool Shire Council be responsible for delivery of these active open spaces, SRV encourages the VPA to work closely with Council on the provision requirements for active open space in this PSP, including the size and location of the proposed active open spaces and infrastructure.	Y	Lead agency to be identified

		SRV notes that Council is best positioned to provide further information and work to inform design and delivery of these spaces to meet the community sport and active recreation infrastructure requirements of its community for this PSP.		
Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment	Public Open Space & Recreation	<u>Demand and provision of indoor court space</u> SRV notes that the <i>Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment</i> background report identifies a demand for up to 2 indoor courts within the PSP area by 2046 and recommends that a 2-court facility be incorporated into a government school in the PSP. While co-location of indoor courts with schools has merit, it is subject to support from the VSBA on a project-to-project basis and is not a guarantee that these facilities will be provided / delivered. Furthermore, the funding pathway to deliver the identified 2 indoor courts is unclear in the draft PSP. SRV notes that the demand for indoor court space in Moorabool Shire is increasing, and Council anticipates an undersupply of at least 1 indoor court across the Shire by 2035 (<i>draft Moorabool Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2025-2035 – Volume 3</i>). SRV recommends further clarity is given for the provision and funding for the required 2 indoor courts in the draft PSP, as identified in the background report. While co-location with a future school is a potential pathway, further clarity should be provided in the draft PSP of the requirement and delivery pathway for this facility.	Y	Clarity for delivery of indoor court space